

2 Corinthians 6:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now for a recompence in the same, (I speak as unto my children,) be ye also enlarged.

Analysis

Now for a recompence in the same (τὴν δὲ αὐτὴν ἀντιμισθίαν, *tēn de autēn antimisthian*)—Antimisthia means recompense, repayment, or exchange in kind. Paul uses commercial metaphor: as fair return for my enlarged heart toward you, I ask for reciprocal enlargement from you. Autēn ('same' or 'likewise') emphasizes the matching nature of what Paul requests—the same open-hearted affection he's shown them.

I speak as unto my children (ώς τέκνοις λέγω, *hōs teknois legō*)—Teknon (child) indicates both the natural authority of Paul's apostolic fatherhood and the tender affection of parental love. Paul founded the Corinthian church (1 Cor 4:15: 'In Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel'), giving him paternal standing. But the term also conveys warmth—he addresses them not as rebellious subjects but as beloved children who need correction and encouragement.

Be ye also enlarged (πλατύνθητε καὶ ὑμεῖς, *platynthēte kai hymeis*)—The aorist imperative *platynthēte* commands decisive action: 'enlarge your hearts!' Kai hymeis ('also you') creates reciprocity: I have enlarged my heart toward you; now you enlarge yours toward me. This isn't mere sentimentalism but a call to repentance—to put away suspicion, criticism, and coolness, replacing them with renewed trust and affection.

Paul's appeal combines authority and tenderness, directness and warmth. He commands as an apostle but entreats as a father. The enlargement he seeks isn't

merely emotional warmth but restored relationship based on truth and mutual trust.

Historical Context

Paul's parental imagery recalls his earlier statement in 1 Corinthians 4:14-15 where he claimed unique apostolic authority as their father in the gospel. False teachers had tried to usurp this relationship, presenting themselves as superior 'guides' (1 Cor 4:15). Paul reasserts his fatherly role while appealing for reconciliation rather than wielding authority heavy-handedly.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does viewing spiritual leaders as 'fathers in the gospel' who have earned the right to speak into your life affect your response to correction?
2. What specific steps can you take to 'be enlarged' toward someone—putting away suspicion and criticism, renewing trust and affection?
3. How does Paul model the balance between apostolic authority and fatherly tenderness in addressing those who have grown cold toward you?

Interlinear Text

τὴν δὲ αὐτὴν ἀντιμισθίαν ὡς τέκνοις λέγω
G3588 Now in the same for a recompence as unto my children (I speak
G1161 G846 G489 G5613 G5043 G3004

πλατύνθητε καὶ ὑμεῖς

be also ye
G4115 G2532 G5210

Additional Cross-References

3 John 1:4 (Parallel theme): I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.

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